United Nations

Framework Convention on Climate Change

FCCC/SBI/2014/L.21

Distr.: Limited
14 June 2014

Original: English

Subsidiary Body for Implementation
Fortieth session
Bonn, 4–15 June 2014

Agenda item 17
Arrangements for intergovernmental meetings

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Draft conclusions proposed by the Chair

1. The Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI) expressed its gratitude to the Government of Peru for offering to host the twentieth session of the Conference of the Parties (COP) and the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) in Lima, Peru, from 1 to 12 December 2014. It took note with appreciation of the preparations and efforts of the Government of Peru and the secretariat to ensure the success of COP 20 and CMP 10.

2. The SBI recommended that arrangements be made to organize the high-level segment of COP 20 and CMP 10 from Tuesday, 9 December, to Friday, 12 December, with statements delivered by ministers, other heads of delegation and representatives of intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). In order to ensure the timely closure of the conference and that the COP and the CMP can adopt decisions and conclusions in the morning of Friday, 12 December, the inauguration of the high-level segment will take place in the morning of Tuesday, 9 December. In the afternoon, following the inauguration, national statements by ministers and other heads of delegation will be heard at a joint meeting of the COP and the CMP. National statements will continue at joint meetings scheduled for Wednesday, 10 December, and Thursday, 11 December. Later that Thursday, a joint meeting of the COP and the CMP will be held where statements by observer organizations will be heard.

3. The SBI concluded that arrangements be made for the delivery of concise national statements by ministers and other heads of delegation, with a recommended time limit of three minutes, and concise statements by representatives of intergovernmental organizations and NGOs, with a recommended time limit of two minutes, in the joint meetings of the COP and the CMP during the high-level segment.

4. The SBI requested the secretariat to take note of the views expressed by Parties on the possible elements of the provisional agendas for COP 20 and CMP 10.

5. The SBI invited the Bureau to finalize the details of the arrangements for COP 20 and CMP 10, including arrangements for the high-level segment, in consultation with the President Designate of COP 20 and CMP 10 and the secretariat. It also stressed the

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importance of the principles of openness, transparency and inclusiveness in finalizing the arrangements for sessions.

6. The SBI noted that, in keeping with the principle of rotation among regional groups, the President of COP 22 and CMP 12 would come from the African States. It recalled the offer of the Government of Senegal to host COP 22 and CMP 12.[1] It further noted that, in keeping with the principle of rotation among regional groups, the President of COP 23 and CMP 13 would come from the Asia-Pacific States.

7. The SBI invited Parties to come forward with offers to host future sessions of the COP and the CMP.

8. The SBI discussed its previous conclusions[2] on the dates for future sessional periods and agreed to recommend to the COP that future sessions of the COP and the CMP, including those for 2019, commence on a Monday with work being completed on the Friday of the second week.

9. The SBI recommended the following dates for future sessions of the COP and CMP:[3]

(a) 2015: Monday, 30 November, to Friday, 11 December (COP 21/CMP 11);[4]

(b) 2016: Monday, 7 November, to Friday 18 November (COP 22/CMP 12);

(c) 2017: Monday, 6 November, to Friday 17 November (COP 23/CMP 13);

(d) 2018: Monday, 5 November, to Friday, 16 November (COP 24/CMP 14);

(e) 2019: Monday, 11 November, to Friday, 22 November (COP 25/CMP 15).

10. The SBI discussed its previous conclusions[5] on the dates for future sessional periods and agreed to recommend to the COP that future sessional dates for the May/June sessions of the subsidiary bodies, including those for 2019, should commence on a Monday and that, in order to enhance efficiency and time management, work should be completed one day earlier so as to finish on the Thursday of the second week.

11. The SBI further recommended that all meetings, at the May/June sessions of the subsidiary bodies, taking place on a Saturday, be completed by midday in order to enhance the efficiency, timeliness and transparency of work.

12. The SBI recommended the following dates for future sessions of the May/June sessions of the subsidiary bodies:[6]

(a) 2015: Monday, 1 June, to Thursday, 11 June (SBSTA/SBI 42);

(b) 2016: Monday, 16 May, to Thursday, 26 May (SBSTA/SBI 44);

(c) 2017: Monday, 8 May, to Thursday, 18 May (SBSTA/SBI 46);

(d) 2018: Monday, 30 April, to Thursday, 10 May (SBSTA/SBI 48);

(e) 2019: Monday, 17 June, to Thursday, 27 June (SBSTA/SBI 50).

13. The SBI welcomed the views expressed by Parties on ways to improve the organization of the intergovernmental process and affirmed the need to consider this matter

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[1] Decision 28/CP.19, paragraph 5.

[2] FCCC/SBI/2008/8, paragraph 136, FCCC/SBI/2009/8, paragraph 115 and FCCC/SBI/2010/10, paragraph 159.

[3] These dates do not prejudge future decisions on the arrangements for intergovernmental meetings.

[4] These dates were agreed in decision 28/CP.19, paragraph 3.

[5] FCCC/SBI/2008/8, paragraph 136, FCCC/SBI/2009/8, paragraph 115 and FCCC/SBI/2010/10, paragraph 159.

[6] These dates do not prejudge future decisions on the arrangements for intergovernmental meetings.

with a sense of urgency. It also stressed the need to take into account, in considering this matter, the principles of openness, transparency and inclusiveness as well as the importance of effectiveness, credibility and legitimacy.

14. In this regard, the SBI requested the secretariat to prepare the following two documents for consideration at SBI 41:

(a) A document outlining various options relating to the frequency and organization of the sessions of the COP, the CMP and their subsidiary bodies. The document should also include scenarios and related implications for various options for the periodicity and venue, and for whether future sessions of the subsidiary bodies should be held in conjunction with the COP and the CMP. The document should further include the scenarios and related implications for various options including, but not limited to, current arrangements for annual COP and CMP sessions; biennial COP and CMP sessions; and annual COP and CMP sessions at venues alternating every year between a host country and the seat of the secretariat and in keeping with the principle of rotation among regional groups. The document should also explore whether every session of the COP and the CMP requires a high-level segment.

The document should also include an analysis of the impacts of the options, including budgetary implications (and funding available for the participation of eligible developing countries) and impact on the work of the COP and the CMP and their subsidiary bodies. The document would be guided by the principles of openness, transparency and inclusiveness;

(b) A document on adjusting the timing of the election of the President, including options for strengthened coordination between the President and incoming Presidencies to ensure smooth transition.

15. The SBI noted that the documents outlined in paragraph 14 above would not prejudge the outcome in the consideration of these issues.

16. The SBI urged current and future presiding officers to ensure the observance of the draft rules of procedure,[7] and to enforce clear and effective time management practices at all sessions in line with previously adopted conclusions of the SBI.[8] It also urged Parties and Presiding Officers to make greater efforts to conclude negotiations and conferences in a timely manner, respecting and complying with the previous SBI conclusions[9] and requested elected officers, in fulfilling their duties, to act accordingly.

17. The SBI reemphasized its previously adopted conclusions that all meetings should end by 6.00 p.m., particularly to give Parties and regional groups sufficient time to prepare for daily meetings, but may, in exceptional circumstances, and on a case-by-case basis, continue for two to three hours.[10]

18. The SBI expressed concern regarding implementing and complying with the adopted conclusions outlined in paragraph 17 above. It also stressed the need to improve working processes, including for the post-2015 period, in line with previously adopted conclusions. The SBI also stressed the importance of observing the relevant procedures and working practices agreed to by all Parties.

19. The SBI emphasized that the adopted conclusions referred to in paragraph 17 above should be respected by all concerned and also highlighted the need to implement, in this context, realistic and practical ways forward for effective time management.

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[7] FCCC/CP/1996/2.
[8] FCCC/SBI/2009/8, paragraph 115, and FCCC/SBI/2010/10, paragraph 165.
[9] As footnote 6 above.
[10] As footnote 6 above.

20. The SBI took note of the update provided by the secretariat on observer participation and the implementation of the SBI conclusions on ways to further enhance the engagement of observer organizations in the intergovernmental process.[11]

21. The SBI reaffirmed the fundamental value of effective participation by observers and the value of contributions from observer organizations to deliberations on substantive issues, while recognizing the recent significant increase in the number of participants from observer organizations.[12] The SBI also recognized the importance of the effective participation of NGOs, particularly from developing countries.

22. The SBI recognized that side events and exhibits are an essential part of the UNFCCC process and an important tool for engaging observers in knowledge-sharing, networking and the exploring of actionable options for meeting the climate challenge. In this context, Parties recognized the need for financial support to the important work in relation to these activities, expressed concern about the cost recovery proposal, and encouraged alternatives to be proposed.

23. The SBI recalled the conclusions adopted at SBI 34 on various ways to engage observer organizations in the intergovernmental process,[13] and requested the secretariat to provide, subject to the availability of resources, a regular report every two years on the implementation of these conclusions.

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[11] FCCC/SBI/2013/4, paragraphs 29–35, and FCCC/SBI/2014/6, paragraphs 29–33.
[12] FCCC/SBI/2011/7, paragraph 171.
[13] FCCC/SBI/2011/7, paragraphs 175–178.